

AN
ACCOUNT

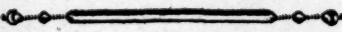
OF THE

Prisons and Houses of Correction

IN THE

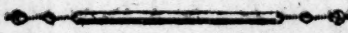
HOME CIRCUIT.





IF any of the Gentlemen to whom this Pamphlet is sent will be kind enough to give the SOCIETY an account of improvements undertaken in consequence of these observations, such communications will be esteemed a favour by the SOCIETY; and are requested to be addressed to their Secretary, Mr. *Bennett*, under a cover directed to his Grace the *Duke of Montagu*, *President of the Society for giving Effect to his Majesty's Proclamation.*

Privy Garden, London,
June, 1789.



MONTAGU HOUSE, June 12th, 1789.

AT a meeting of the Committee of the Society instituted for giving effect to His Majesty's proclamation against vice and immorality.

The Sub-Committee, agreeably to the Resolutions of May 4th and 25th, presented eight Pamphlets, containing Extracts from Mr. Howard's Account of the Present State of the Prisons, together with a general Introduction to those Extracts.

Resolved,

That the Sub-Committee be requested to send Copies of the said Pamphlets, in the name of the Society, to the Judges, Sheriffs, Gentlemen of the Grand Juries, Magistrates, Clerks of the Peace, and such other persons as they shall think proper, in the different counties and towns in England and Wales.

MONTAGU, PRESIDENT.

21
MONTAGU, Treasurer.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Society, held for the purpose of giving effect to the Society's determination to publish a new edition of the

The Sub-Committee, according to the Resolutions of

ERRATA. INTRODUCTION.

Extracts from Mr. Howard's account of the
P. 9, l. 16.—Vide Act, 13, G. III. Cap. 58.

P. 11, l. 5.—For *Keepers*, read *Keeper*.

Abstract, p. 1. add Cap. 59, and Cap. 54.

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the Judges, Justices, Gentlemen of the Grand Jurors,
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as they shall think proper, in the different counties and
cities in England and Wales.

MONTAGU, Treasurer.

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AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
PRESENT STATE OF THE PRISONS
AND
HOUSES OF CORRECTION
IN THE
HOME CIRCUIT.

Taken from a late Publication of

JOHN HOWARD, Esq. F.R.S.

By Permission of the Author.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
AN INTRODUCTION,

STATING

The Acts lately passed for improving the Prisons in this kingdom.

The good Effects which have resulted from those Acts, where they have been carried into Execution.

The Abuses which still continue where they have been neglected; and

The means by which those Abuses may most effectually be corrected.

The best laws will fail in their effect, unless the assiduous and zealous endeavours of Magistrates be exerted in a strict attention to their execution.....Howard, page 234.

LONDON:

Printed by Order of the SOCIETY lately instituted for giving Effect to his Majesty's Proclamation against VICE and IMMORALITY.

IN those places in the following Extracts in which the words
" NO ALTERATION " are inserted, particular attention
is recommended to be paid to the Gaols, as those Gaols will
for the most part be found in a very bad condition. A refer-
ence to Mr. HOWARD's Publication in 1784, would on these
occasions be adviseable.



INTRODUCTION.



A FEW years ago, the state of the Prisons and Houses of Correction in this kingdom, was such as was calculated to counteract almost every purpose for which those buildings were intended. In consequence of the total want of attention to air, to cleanliness, and whatever concerned the health of prisoners, the gaol-fever prevailed to such a degree, as to occasion the death of many more persons than fell by the hands of the executioner. The fatal effects of this disorder were often extended to debtors, as well as felons; to the keepers of prisons, as well as those confined

fined in them ; to witnesses, to jurymen, and even to Judges on the bench.*

The morals of prisoners were at this time as much neglected as their health. Idleness, drunkenness, and all kinds of vice, were suffered to continue in such a manner as to confirm old offenders in their bad practices, and to render it almost certain, that the minds of those who were confined for their first faults, would be corrupted, instead of being corrected, by their imprisonment.

In this situation, it is probable, the gaols in this Island would still have continued, if the attention of the Public had not been called to the subject by the labours of Mr. HOWARD. The true state of the prisons was made known by that gentleman, and the means were pointed out by which they might be improved.

In consequence of the information which was thus obtained, the subject was considered by the

* At the assize held in Oxford Castle, 1577, all who were present died within forty hours. The Lord Chief Baron, the Sheriff, and about 300 more.

Vide Baker's Chronicle, page 353.

Legislature with the attention which its importance deserved. Several acts of Parliament were passed for the better regulation of gaols and houses of correction; and in consequence of these acts, and of the exertions of many public bodies, and public-spirited individuals, much good has been done. Many new prisons have been built, in which the chief defects of the old ones have been avoided, many of the old ones have been improved, and attention has been paid to air, to cleanliness, and of course to health. The result of the whole has been, that the *gaol-fever* by which such numbers not only of guilty, but of innocent persons were destroyed, *is now almost eradicated*, and our gaols may for the most part be visited without danger. But it is observed, that at this point the spirit of improvement unhappily seems to stop, scarcely touching upon that still more important object, the reformation of the morals of prisoners.

It is with a view to attain this object, and to correct those abuses which still continue in our gaols, that the following observations are submitted to the consideration of those persons, whose situation renders them the most able to contribute to so good a work. The task will perhaps not be found to be so difficult as it may at first sight be

supposed. If the acts of the 14th Geo. III. cap. 59, and 24 Geo. III. cap. 54, are examined, it will appear that provision is already made for the correction of most of these abuses, and what is now chiefly required, is to take care that those acts are properly enforced. The following pages point out the good effects which have resulted from them, where they have been carried into execution; and the evils which still continue, where they have been neglected.

For these reasons, it is hoped, that the Magistrates in the different Circuits will exert themselves in their respective Towns and Counties; and that taking the following observations as their guide, they will endeavour to carry into effect the good intentions of the Legislature. For this purpose, the several circumstances here mentioned are particularly recommended to their attention.*

* Most of the regulations which follow are expressly enjoined in some of the acts lately passed for the improvement of gaols, but many of the clauses in those acts have been too much neglected in several towns and counties.

I. That

I. That agreeably to the act of the 32d of Geo. II. cap. 28, Rules be made by the Justices, and confirmed by the Judges, for the direction of the gaolers, and the conduct of the prisoners, and that the same be painted on a board in a legible manner, and hung up in one or more conspicuous parts of every prison.*

II. That the act of the 14th of Geo. III. cap. 59; and the clauses against drunkenness, in the 20, 21, 22, and 23 sections of the act of the 24th of Geo. III, cap. 54, be in like manner hung up in the prisons.†

III. That until the laudable example of the county of Suffex, and some few other places, in abolishing all fees, be generally adopted, a table of fees made by the Justices, and confirmed by the Judges, be also hung up in the prisons; and that

* What is here recommended has been carried into execution in a very proper manner at Reading, Bury, and Lancaster.— Any persons who wish the gaols under their direction to be well managed, would find it worth while to procure copies of the regulations established at those places.

† Vide act 14 Geo. III. cap. 59.

no garnish, or any other fee but what is allowed as above, be permitted to be taken of any prisoner.*

IV. That every prison be white-washed at least once in every year, and that this be done twice (that is to say after each gaol delivery) in prisons which are much crowded.†

V. That a pump and plentiful supply of water be provided, and that every part of the prison be kept as clean as possible.‡

VI. That every prison be supplied with a warm and cold bath, or commodious bathing tubs, and that the prisoners be indulged in the use of such baths, with a proper allowance of soap, and the use of towels.§

VII. That attention be paid to the sewers, in order to render them as little offensive as possible.

* Vide act 32 Geo. II. cap. 21, sect. 12.

† Vide act 14 Geo. III. cap. 59.

‡ Vide ibid.

§ Vide ibid.

VIII. That no animals of any kind which render a prison dirty, be allowed to be kept in it, either by the gaoler, or any prisoner. The only exception to this rule, should be one dog kept by the gaoler.*

IX. That great care be taken, that as perfect a separation as possible be made of the following classes of prisoners, viz. That felons be kept entirely separate from debtors; men from women;

* If any persons should be of opinion, that the attention to cleanliness which is recommended in the five foregoing articles, has little connection with the morals of prisoners, they are requested to read the following extracts from *Mr. Howard's* last publication:

“ Endeavouring to introduce habits of cleanliness is an object of great importance, as many officers have observed, that the most cleanly men are always the most decent and honest, and the most slovenly and dirty are the most vicious and irregular.” Page 218.

“ I have repeatedly observed, that when I have pulled down old cottages that had clay floors, and no pantry, no pump, no out-house for fuel, nor any vault, and have built new ones with these conveniences, which have also been white-washed both within and without—the very same families that were before slovenly and dirty, have upon this change of their habitations, become clean and neat in their persons, in their houses, and gardens.” Page 118.

old

old offenders from young beginners ; and convicts from those who have not been tried.*

X. That all prisoners, except debtors, be clothed on their admission with a prison uniform, and that their own clothes be returned them when they are brought to trial, or are dismissed.

XI. That care be taken that the prisoners are properly supplied with food, and their allowance not deficient, either in weight or quality.†

XII. That no gaoler, or any person in trust for him, or employed by him, be permitted to sell any wine, beer, or other liquors, or permit or suffer any such to be sold in any prison ; or on any pretence whatever, to suffer any tippling or gaming in the prison.‡

* Vide act 22 Geo. III. cap. 64.

† Vide *ibid.*

‡ This is expressly commanded in the act of 24 Geo. III. cap. 54, sect. 20 and 22, and attention to this circumstance is most earnestly recommended, as Mr. HOWARD observes, page 234, " No effectual reform will be made in our prisons till the root of the evil be cut off, which, from the closest observation, I am convinced is the *vice of drunkenness*."

XIII.

XIII. That a proper salary be given to the gaoler, in lieu of the profits which he formerly derived from the tap, from fees, and other perquisites.*

XIV. That those prisoners who are committed to hard labour be not permitted to be idle, and that such other prisoners as are willing to work, be supplied with materials, and be allowed part of the profits of such work, as the act directs.†

XV. That a clergyman be appointed, with a proper salary, and that divine service be regularly performed on Sundays and holydays: that on those days no persons be allowed to visit the prisoners; and that such prisoners as will not attend divine service be locked up, and not suffered to disturb others while it is performed.

XVI. That care be taken that no swearing, cursing, or profane conversation be permitted, that the keepers and turnkeys be cautioned against

* Vide act 24 Geo. III. cap. 54, sect. 20.

† Vide act 22 Geo. III. cap. 64, sect. 7.

it, and strictly enjoined not to suffer the prisoners to be guilty of it.*

XVII. That cells be provided for the refractory, and night-rooms for solitary confinement, but that no prisoner be kept in any dungeon, or room under ground.†

XVIII. That a surgeon or apothecary be appointed (with a proper salary) to afford the necessary assistance to the sick, and that two rooms, one for men, and one for women, be set apart as infirmaries, and be furnished with proper bedding.‡

XIX. That great attention be paid to what concerns the debtors, as it is found that that part of the management of our prisons has hitherto been the most neglected.

XX. That wherever any legacies have been bequeathed, or any charitable donations given for the benefit of prisoners, an account of the same be hung up in the prison; and that care be taken that

* Vide 22 Geo. III. cap. 64.

† Vide act 14 Geo. III. cap. 59.

‡ Vid: ibid.

the sums of money so given, be employed to the purposes for which they were intended by the donors.

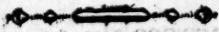
XXI. That agreeably to the act of 22 Geo. III. cap. 64, the keepers of every house of correction be obliged to deliver to the Chairman at the Quarter Sessions, a list of the prisoners in his custody, distinguishing their age and sex, and mentioning in what trade or business each person hath been employed, and is best qualified for; as also the behaviour of such person during his or her confinement.*

XXII. That the prisons be frequently visited; that the visitors take notice whether the regulations which have been established are observed or neglected; that a report from the visitors be presented to the Justices at every Sessions, and that these reports be taken into consideration, at least once a year, viz. at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions.

XXIII. That attention be paid to prisoners when they are discharged, and that, if possible,

* If this order were strictly enforced, it would necessarily oblige the gaoler to pay some attention to the prisoners in his custody.

some means be pointed out to them, by which they may be enabled to gain a livelihood in an honest manner.



In the plan here proposed, it is to be observed, that no indulgence is recommended to be shewn to prisoners, but what is necessary in order to preserve their health and reform their morals. The use of imprisonment is to correct those who are vicious, to deter others from becoming so, to confine such as are suspected of crimes till their guilt or innocence is proved; and lastly, to secure the persons of debtors for the benefit of their creditors. If this is the case, how strongly are we called upon to take care that the debtor, the person whose guilt is doubtful, and the young offender,* be not exposed, while in prison, to any disorders which may destroy his health, or endanger his life; or to any temptation from bad example, or bad society, which may render it probable that he will be sent

* In Holland, Switzerland, and Scotland, the number of young offenders, and of prisoners of all kinds, debtors as well as felons, is very small. This is chiefly to be ascribed to the care which is taken in those countries to bring up children in habits of industry, and to give even the poorest a moral and religious education.

back

back into the world, a worse member of the community than he was at the beginning of his confinement.

The success which has attended the attempts already made to reform the state of our gaols, gives the greatest reason to hope, that by persisting in our endeavours, we may complete the desired object. If after all that has been done, our prisons were now in as dreadful a condition as when Mr. HOWARD first visited them, there would be some reason to fear that the evil was not to be conquered; but as we find that the greatest difficulties are already overcome, that the greatest dangers are removed, and that in several counties * the labours of

* The examples of the counties of York, Sussex, Cornwall, Lancaster, Norfolk, Suffolk, Gloucester, and Oxford, are worthy of imitation; and the following accounts of Oxford and Wymondham, deserve to be noticed in every part of the kingdom, as they shew in what manner a county gaol, and county bridewell may (*without additional expense to the county*) be made places of real reformation,

COUNTY GAOL, OXFORD CASTLE.

The convicts were employed in building the new gaol. The lodges and the gateway, with the chapel over it, were built entirely by them. They were guarded only by one man, though several

of the magistrates have been attended with greater success than the most sanguine advocates for reformation had ventured to predict—in such a case,

several of them for their good behaviour had their irons taken off. This proves that among such delinquents many are reclaimable, and not so entirely abandoned, as some are apt to suppose. The encouragements here given with respect to their diet, clothes, and term of confinement, have been the means of recovering many from their bad habits, and of rendering them useful members of society. Here the convicts are not defrauded of the King's allowance of 2s. 6d. a week.

An account of the earnings of the Prisoners in the County Gaol and Bridewell of Oxford, together with the expense of their maintenance, materials for work, &c. &c. from January 23, 1786, to January 7, 1787.

	£.	s.	d.
Total earnings - - - - -	198	1	11
Expense in county allowance of bread	58	19	0
Clothes and extra feeding - - - - -	85	1	9½
Over-looker - - - - -	22	10	9
Materials for work, &c. - - - - -	11	11	0
Total expense - - - - -	178	1	9½
Total earnings - - - - -	198	1	11

Balance gained by the county from Jan.

23, 1786, to Jan. 7, 1787 - - - 20 : 0 : 1½

Ditto gained by the county from Jan.

7, 1787, to Jan. 1, 1788 - - - 113 : 9 : 2

Ditto gained by the county from Jan. 1,

1788, to Jan. 1, 1789 - - - 135 : 15 : 6

This

case, it may reasonably be expected, that no person whose situation affords the means of contributing to

This great increase in the balance is chiefly owing to the convicts being employed in building the new gaol: it cannot therefore be expected that it should continue as great when the building is finished. There is however little reason to doubt of a considerable sum being always gained to the county from the work of the convicts. It should also be observed, that the saving the expense of maintaining convicts, which would otherwise be incurred, and the gaining a balance in favour of the county, are but secondary advantages. The great benefit which has resulted from the exertions of the magistrates in this county, is the reformation in the morals of the prisoners. In this respect they have been remarkably successful; and it deserves to be noticed, that in order to bring the convicts to habits of industry, promises have been found more effectual than threats. A subscription has been raised by the gentlemen of the county, by which some prisoners, when discharged, have been clothed, others have been furnished with a complete set of tools to go on with their work or manufacture; and a little money has been given them at their discharge, with an assurance of further encouragement, in case they brought a certificate of their good behaviour from their employers at the end of the year. Promises of rewards of this kind, or in some cases of applying to his Majesty to remit part of the term of confinement, have in every instance but one, answered much better than threats of further or more severe punishment.

WYMOND.

to so good a work, will refuse to take some pains to put the finishing hand to what has been so happily and successfully begun.

WYMONDHAM.

By examining the accounts of the house of correction at Wymondham, in the county of Norfolk, from October 8, 1783, to April 11, 1789, it appears that the earnings of the convicts have every year exceeded the expense of maintaining them, and in the course of five years and a half, the balance gained by the county, after defraying all charges, has amounted to £262:18:54. It is also to be observed, that by means of this well-regulated house of correction, many offenders have been brought to acquire habits of industry; and no method is found so effectual towards reforming the morals of delinquents, as the teaching them a profitable trade. It is a FACT, that some, even of those convicts who appeared the worst, are now become useful members of the community, and support themselves and their families, by the practice of that trade, which was taught them during their confinement in the prison of Wymondham.



ABSTRACT



ABSTRACT

FROM

MR. HOWARD'S

ACCOUNT OF THE ENGLISH PRISONS

HOME CIRCUIT.

HERTFORDSHIRE.

COUNTY GAOL AT HERTFORD.

THE windows are neither sufficiently large nor lofty, and the felons' day rooms are too small; not white-washed. On their side garnish is abolished; but the debtors have the assurance to write it up, and no restraint of liquors is fixed by the magistrates. Some years ago, complaint

* B *

being

being made to Judge *Forster* that the two shillings and sixpence a week was not paid to the affize convicts, he reprimanded the under sheriff, since which it has been regularly paid, and charged in his bill of cravings. No bath, though the surgeon observed the propriety of it in gaol-fevers.* Gaoler's salary now £180. No licence

1787, Oct. 29. Debtors 8, Felons, &c. 3.

COUNTY BRIDEWELLS.

HERTFORD. This prison adjoins to the borough gaol. The county gaoler the keeper of both. No alteration. No fire-place in the bridewell: the prisoners always confined: no employment. The men at night I saw chained to a post in the *dungeon*.

1787, Oct. 29. Prisoners in the *bridewell* 13. In the gaol, none.

* I hope I shall be excused repeating what I formerly mentioned; that in the interval of my visits to the *old gaol*, the *gaol-fever* prevailed, and carried off seven or eight prisoners, and two turnkeys; that I was then well informed, that a prisoner brought out as dead, from one of the dungeons, on being washed under the pump, shewed signs of life, and soon after recovered. Since this, I have known other instances of the same kind.

HITCHIN.

HITCHIN. A bad prison, not secure: no apartment for the keeper.

1787, Oct. 29, No Prisoners.

St. ALBAN'S BOROUGH GAOL.

The only alteration is one room added for debtors: no fire-place: no court. Keeper's salary now £20.

1788, Aug. 12, One Criminal.

The LIBERTY GAOL. Much improved. Now on court with water, a day-room and four bed-rooms are added: not white-washed. The three former offensive rooms not used. Keeper's salary £40 in lieu of the tap.

1788, Aug. 12, Felons, &c. 6.

The BRIDWELL for the Liberty. No alteration for the better.

1788, Aug. 12, No Prisoners.

— serving the health of prisoners hung up. —
 The gaol has been ~~renewed~~ and is clean.
 No bath. Acquitted prisoners are kept in irons
 till the judge leaves the town, unless the fees to
 the clerk of the crown be paid. Forty convicts

COUNTY GAOL AT CHELMSEFORD.

In THE debtors' court and apartments are convenient and spacious. They have very properly a large day-room and work-room. Though the greatest number were in the former, yet in the latter some weavers and shoe-makers were at work. The felons' court is also spacious, and paved with flat stones; and I hope will never be spoiled with cells or any other buildings. In a narrow court on the women's side, there are eight new cells. The women are in the infirmary, which has never been furnished with beds, &c. for the sick. The roof of this prison is now covered with copper, it having been laid too flat, which is the fault of almost all the new prisons. Allowance $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bread, and a quart of small beer, for which the county pays the keeper 3d. a day. Transports have the 2s. 6d. a week. The table of fees, the clauses against spirituous liquors, and the act for preserving

serving the health of prisoners hung up.—
 The gaol has been white-washed and is clean.
 No bath. Acquitted prisoners are kept in irons
 till the judge leaves the town, unless the fees to
 the clerk of the crown be paid. Forty convicts
 here (some of whom had been under sentence of
 transportation three or four years) regularly re-
 ceive the king's allowance of 2s. 6d. a week. In
 many other gaols the convicts have only the
 county allowance; and several gaolers have ob-
 served, that when released after long confine-
 ment, they seldom live above a year or two.
 Here is a better contrivance for the execution of
 criminals than at Newgate. The hooks and eyes
 being fixed in the wall, the scaffolding is easily
 placed; and, by a simple contrivance, the plat-
 form falls back, and the criminals are left hang-
 ing. I have now no complaint of the neglect of
 the chaplain's duty; but I could wish that here,
 and in all county gaols, these gentlemen would
 note down every time of their attendance in a
 book kept for the purpose, for the inspection of
 the magistrates; as is done in some hospitals.—
 Gaoler's salary £ 280 in lieu of the tap.

1787, Dec. 6, Debtors 31. Felons, &c. 36.
 Transports 40.

COUNTY

COUNTY BRIDEWELLS.

CHELMSFORD. No alteration in this *un-healthy* prison. Prisoners always locked up. Employment, spinning and carding wool: prisoners have none of the profit, consequently little work is done, especially in winter. Allowance, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bread, and a quart of small beer, for which the keeper is allowed 3d. a day.—There were several sick objects on the floors. All the men lay in one ward: the sick complained to me that they were disturbed and deprived of sleep by the noise of the others. At the same time I found that one of the two sick rooms, for the sake of a small emolument, was filled with the arms of the militia. Keeper's salary £30.

1787, Dec. 26, Men 23. Women 7.

COLCHESTER. The Castle, the property of the late Charles Gray, Esq. was formerly the county gaol: No alteration: but the well of fine water is now opened, for the convenience of the prisoners.

1787, Feb. 26, Prisoners, 5.

NEW-

NEWPORT. No alteration, but allowance now $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bread, and a quart of small beer, for which the keeper receives of the county 2d. a day. Women still continue in a room on the men's side. Court not paved. Allowance for straw only for a year. Prison not clean; has been white-washed but once. Employment, spinning jersey; but the county having all the profit, little work is done. In the *State of the Prison*, I mentioned the propriety of a latticed partition (or pound) before the keeper's door; and now there is one (five feet by four and a half) but it was not made till the keeper and his family had been cruelly used by several of the prisoners, who rushed out at the time of locking up.

1787, Dec. 5, Prisoners 13.

BARKING. No alteration in the two rooms. In that for men (fifteen feet by ten and a half, and only seven high) there have been lately seven prisoners, and some of them sick. At the back of the prison is the keeper's garden, and he has a large barn and yard.

1788, Aug. 20, Prisoners 2.

COL-

COLCHESTER TOWN GAOL AND BRIDEWELL.

No alteration.

1787, Feb. 26, Petty Offenders 3.

HARWICH TOWN GAOL.

No alteration. Windows towards the street.

1787, Feb. 25, No Prisoners.

COUNTY GAOL AT MAIDSTONE.

Here are many good alterations. The *Debtors' Prison* is new and separate; and the gaoler's house is now between that and the felons' prison. The rooms that were lately the debtors' on the first floor, and also their court, are now occupied by the felons; yet they are still crowded and have too little air. The infirmary, which consists of two close rooms, is in one of the courts. No bath. Two years ago, about twenty died of the gaol-fever. The thick wooden bars in the windows

dows of the wards greatly obstruct the air and light. Divine service is still performed on the staircase. Several windows both of the debtors and felons are towards the street, which occasion many inconveniences to the neighbourhood.— Here are no rules respecting the quantity of liquors which may be admitted for the debtors: indeed rules would be almost useless where the windows are so situated. Debtors and felons have the county allowance of bread and beer, and the assize convicts have also the half-crown a week. Some of the prisoners expressed their desire of having their bread allowance increased, though they were to have less beer.

The *Gaol* was clean. I observed that the irons on the felons were very light, which induces them to use exercise; and I am persuaded that a good gaoler can more easily manage his prisoners by humane attention, than by severity and heavy irons. Gaoler's salary 300*l.* in lieu of the tap.

Here was a prisoner under sentence of death in one of the dungeons. The gaoler agreed with me in opinion, that execution should not be deferred longer than ten days after the sentence.

1788, July 15, Debtors 31. Felons, &c. 80, viz.

Felons 4. Affize Convicts 38. Session Convicts 23.

Fines 15.

COUNTY BRIDEWELLS.

MAIDSTONE. No alteration. Prison not clean: not white-washed for some years: fowls in the court: no coverlets to the beds. Employment, beating and spinning hemp. Allowance, a half quartern loaf in two days.— Many prisoners in irons.

1788, July 15, Prisoners 25.

DARTFORD. No alteration. Only one room for women whether sick or well: no coverlets: employment, beating hemp. Allowance, a twopenny loaf a day (weight $19\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) and a half penny in money.

1788, July 15, Prisoners 9.

ROCHESTER

ROCHESTER CITY GAOL.

No alteration. There are three windows towards the street. The keeper said, "The liberality of the public is so great, we cannot keep the prisoners sober. Persons have even desired to be confined, to have the liberty of the begging grate."

1788, July 15, No Prisoners.

COUNTY GAOL AT HORSHAM.

No alteration in this *well conducted* prison.—The debtors and felons are quite separate. Each debtor is permitted to send for one quart of beer, or one pint of wine a day; but the felons are not permitted to have any beer, or wine.—Allowance to felons two pounds of fine white bread a day. All the prisoners were in health; each had his room and proper bedding; and fuel is allowed by the county. No infirmary: attention to cleanliness and order has hitherto prevented the want of it. Assize convicts are clothed, and have

the 2s. 6d. a week, with which they buy meat, coffee, tea, cocoa, milk, &c. From the gaoler's house there is not a proper view of the courts. His salary, £100. Each of the three turnkeys has half a guinea a week paid by the county.— Chaplain, Rev. Mr. *Jameson*; salary £50. Service every day. Surgeon Mr. *Dubbings*: his salary 15l.*

1788, July 10, Debtors 16.

Felons 4.

Convicts 11.

* On conversing with the surgeon on the health of those prisoners who have no *fermented liquors*, he said, "I have never seen any prisoners intoxicated since I have attended the new gaol; but I have seen the former gaoler, who had the tap, and eight or nine debtors drunk in the kitchen." The gaoler told me, that he had a debtor who was so addicted to the use of *spirits*, that he thought he should *die* if they were refused him; but after his discharge, he had several times called to acknowledge the benefit he had received from entirely breaking him of that habit.—The gaoler also asserted, that the felons after a few weeks were evidently *improved in health* by their *restriction from all spirituous and fermented liquors*, and remained in prison perfectly well.

COUNTY

COUNTY BRIDEWELL.

PETWORTH. A new prison in an airy situation. The rooms are on two stories, over arcades, sixteen on each floor, thirteen feet three inches by ten feet, and nine feet high. Each room has two doors (one iron grated) an iron bedstead, straw mattress and bolster, two blankets and a quilt. The staircases are stone with iron rails, and all the windows close glazed, not made to open. There are two infirmaries on each floor, the only rooms which have chimneys. The chapel is in the centre, and has thirty-two pews, each three feet by two feet two inches: the sides so lofty that the prisoners cannot see one another, though they are all in the view of the chaplain. The keeper's house is detached, and has only one closet window towards the prison. Allowance two pounds of bread a day. No em-

employment. There are many good rules in the keeper's book, which I hope will be printed and hung up. Keeper's salary 50*l*. and half a guinea a week to the turnkey. No fees. Surgeon's salary 15*l*.

1788, July 9, Prisoners 5.

CHICHESTER CITY GAOL AND BRIDEWELL.

A new prison, having the same small court which belonged to the East-gate gaol. Allowance three-pence a day in bread.

1788, July 9, Prisoners 2.

COUNTY

COUNTY GAOL IN SOUTHWARK.

No alteration. Gaoler's salary 200*l.* in lieu of the tap. The allowance in bread three-half-pence a day (weight 16 oz.). Here is still the same *dreadful* assemblage of criminals. Some of the common side debtors' rooms look into the felons' court. One cannot but lament that so opulent a county should have such a close and ill constructed gaol. I wish that in all county gaols there were a separation of sexes, and five entire divisions—debtors—affize felons—quarter session prisoners—transports—fines.

1787, March 28,	Debtors	- -	32.
	Felons &c.	-	98.
— Nov. 4,	Debtors	- -	28.
	Felons	- -	63*.
1788, Aug. 26,	Debtors	- -	26.
	Felons	- -	55, viz.

Master's

* Fifty of the felons in 1787 were convicts for transportation, sentenced in 1783 and the following years. These poor wretches

Master's-Side Debtors	14.
Common Side, Men	10.
Women	2.
Felons, &c. for Affize	8.
for Quarter Session	5.
Fines	9.
Transports	33.

COUNTY BRIDEWELLS.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS. No alteration; but some loads of *gravel* or *dirt* brought by order

wretches lay almost perishing in the gaol, and had only the allowance of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ a day in bread, and the precarious charity of a little meat, broth, &c. collected from the neighbours who knew their distress. Many had worn out their shoes, stockings and shirts, and had hardly clothes to cover them; and by being forced to live in idleness, and associating together, were driven to acts of desperation. Such dreadful nurseries have been a principal cause of the increased number of crimes, in the shocking destruction of our fellow creatures. I am persuaded this would have been in a great measure prevented, if *penitentiary houses* had been built on the *salutary spot* at Islington fixed on by Dr. Fothergill and myself.

of

of the magistrates into the men's and women's courts, to be removed in baskets from one side to the other. This reminds me of what I once heard a keeper say, "I endeavour to *plague* and teaze my prisoners by making them saw wood with a blunt saw." The prison not white-washed. No straw or blankets allowed by the county. Keeper a sheriff's officer, has one woman debtor in confinement.

1787, March 28, Men 24.

Women 15.

1788, Aug. 26, Men 27.

Women 7.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES. The prison very dirty: not white-washed. Fowls in the courts. No employment, but an *order* similar to that at the bridewell in St. George's Fields, for those prisoners that are committed to hard labour. Allowance, a three halfpenny loaf a day to each prisoner (weight 14 oz.). Though there were only twenty-four prisoners, yet the baker assured me he had delivered thirty-three

*

D

loaves

loaves that day, and on every day in the preceding week.—Some of the prisoners had bedding or straw: several of them paid 9*d.* others 1*s.* for the straw on which they lay; others had none. The garnish still continued, 2*s.* 6*d.* Clauses against spirituous liquors not hung up. Keeper's salary 45*l.* in lieu of the tap.

1788, July 13, Prisoners 24.

GUILDFORD. This bridewell not white-washed for some years: only one small day-room (ten feet two inches by seven feet) for men and women: the court paved with sharp flints: a pig sty in the court. Allowance, three half-penny worth of bread (weight 15 oz. and badly made): no straw or bedding: employment, removing gravel as in the two other bridewells: the work-room locked up. Keeper's salary now 45*l.* in lieu of the tap. (His son keeps a public house near).

1788, July 11, Prisoners 8.

KING-

KINGSTON TOWN GAOL.

No alteration: out of repair: not white-washed: a window towards the street; which I found locked up, because the prisoners were intoxicated! Keeper, no salary: has a licence for beer.

1788, July, 13, Debtors 4.



KINOSTON TOWN GAOL.

1/6. Attention: one for repair: new white-
washed: a windowward: the light: which I
found locked up: the other prisoners were
informed: kept: no lady: has a license
for beer.

1783, July 18, Depon.

[Faint, illegible signature or stamp]

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(.)

A B S T R A C T

FROM THE

Acts of the 14th and 24th GEO. III.

f. 101
p. 101.

For preserving the Health of Prisoners in Gaol, and preventing the Gaol Distemper; and for enabling the Justices of Peace to build and repair Gaols in their respective Counties.

WHEREAS the malignant fever, that is commonly called *The Gaol Distemper*, is found to be owing to a want of cleanliness and fresh air in the several gaols in England and Wales, and the fatal consequences of that disorder, of which there has been, of late, too much experience, might be prevented, if Justices of the Peace were duly authorized to provide such accommodations in gaols as may be necessary to answer this salutary purpose: May it therefore please your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the several Justices of the Peace, in that part of Great Britain called England and Wales, within their several jurisdictions,

a

dictions, in their quarter sessions assembled, are hereby authorized and required to order the walls and cielings of the several cells and wards, both of the debtors and the felons, and also of any other rooms used by the prisoners in their respective gaols and prisons, where felons are usually confined, to be scraped and white-washed, once in the year at least; to be regularly washed and kept clean, and constantly supplied with fresh air, by means of hand ventilators, or otherwise; to order two rooms in each gaol or prison, one for the men, and the other for the women, to be set apart for the sick prisoners, directing them to be removed into such rooms as soon as they shall be seized with any disorder, and kept separate from those who shall be in health; to order a warm and cold bath, or commodious bathing tubs, to be provided in each gaol or prison, and to direct the prisoners to be washed in such warm or cold baths or bathing tubs, according to the condition in which they shall be at the time, before they are suffered to go out of such gaols or prisons upon any occasion whatever; to order this act to be painted in large and legible characters upon a board, and hung up in some conspicuous part of each of the said gaols and prisons; and to appoint an experienced surgeon or apothecary, at a stated salary, to attend each gaol or prison respectively, who shall, and he is hereby directed to report to the said Justices by whom he is appointed, at each quarter sessions, a state of the health of the prisoners under his care or superintendence.

“ And

" And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said Justices of the Peace, in their said quarter sessions assembled, are hereby authorized to direct the several courts of justice within their respective jurisdictions to be properly ventilated; to order cloaths to be provided for the prisoners when they see occasion; to prevent the prisoners from being kept under ground, whenever they can do it conveniently; and to make such other orders, from time to time, for restoring or preserving the health of prisoners, as they shall think necessary.

" And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the expences attending the execution of the orders of the said Justices, made in pursuance of this act, so far as the same shall respect county gaols and prisons, and courts of justice belonging to counties, shall be borne and defrayed, at all times, out of the respective county rates; and so far as the same shall respect the gaols and prisons, and courts of justice, of particular cities, towns corporate, cinque ports, liberties, franchises, or places, that do not contribute to the rates of the counties in which they are respectively situated, such expences shall be defrayed out of the public stock or rates of such cities, towns corporate, cinque ports, liberties, franchises, or places, having such exclusive jurisdictions, to which such gaols, or prisons, or courts of justice shall respectively belong: And if any gaoler or keeper of any prison shall, at any time, neglect or disobey the orders of such Justices made in pursuance of this act, he may be proceeded
against

against in a summary way, by complaint made to the Judges of Assize, or to the Justices, in their quarter sessions: and if he be found guilty of such neglect or disobedience, he shall pay such fine as the Judges of Assize, or Justices, shall impose, and shall be committed in case of non-payment."

Abstract, 24th GEO. III.

" And whereas the preventing gaolers from selling any liquors, or deriving any profit from the sale of liquors, may be a great means of preventing drunkenness, riots, and other disorders in gaols, and of preserving good order therein; and it may be proper to give sufficient power and authority to the Justices of the Peace in their sessions, in certain cases, to allow salaries to gaolers, in lieu of the profits which are now derived from the sale of liquors; be it therefore enacted, That, from and after the said first day of September, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the Peace of any county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, within that part of Great Britain called England, or the principality of Wales, at the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or some special adjournment of the same, held for such express purpose, and they are hereby authorized and impowered, if it shall appear to them necessary or proper, to appoint such salaries or allowances to such gaolers and their assistants, in the several gaols within their respective jurisdictions, and to vary the same, from time to time, as to them shall seem meet; and to order and direct the said salaries and allowances

allowances to be paid out of the county rate, by the treasurer of such county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, upon a certificate, signed by the Chairman of such Quarter Sessions, specifying the salaries and allowances so directed to be made.

“ Provided always and be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any Chairman of any Quarter Sessions, or adjournment thereof, to sign such certificate, for such salaries or allowances to be granted under this act, unless such salaries or allowances shall have been settled at some General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or some special adjournment thereof, and notice shall have been given fourteen days at least before the holding such General Quarter Sessions, or such adjournment thereof, by two several advertisements inserted in some newspaper printed and circulated in the county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, in which such gaols are situated, and where such salaries or allowances are to be granted to the gaolers, of an intended application for the granting such salaries or allowances; which said advertisements shall be signed by the Clerk of the Peace of such county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, or his deputy, for the time being.

“ And be it further enacted, That from and after the twenty-fourth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, no gaoler, or any person or persons in trust for or employed by
such

such gaoler, shall suffer tippling or gaming in such prison; or shall sell or dispose of, or permit or suffer to be sold or disposed of, or be capable of being licensed to sell or dispose of, any wine, beer, ale, or other liquors; or have any beneficial interest or concern whatsoever in the sale or disposal of any liquors of any kind, or in any tap house, tap room, or tap, under the penalty of ten pounds for every such offence, to be recovered by distress and sale of the offender's goods and chattels, by warrant under the hands and seals of any two Justices of the Peace acting for the county, riding, division, city, town, liberty, or precinct, within which such gaol is situated, (which warrant such Justices are hereby required to grant), upon the confession of the party or parties, or upon the information of any witness or witnesses, upon oath, (which oath such Justices are hereby empowered to administer); and the said penalty, after the charges of recovering the same shall be deducted, shall be paid one moiety to the informer, and the other moiety to the use of the prisoners confined within such gaol; and in case sufficient distress cannot be found, then it shall be lawful for such Justices to commit such offender or offenders to the house of correction for the county or place where the offence shall be committed, there to remain, without bail or mainprize, for any time not exceeding three calendar months, unless penalty, and all reasonable charges, shall be sooner paid and satisfied.

“ And

“ And be it further enacted, That all Justices of the Peace before whom any person shall be convicted of any offence against this act, shall and may cause the conviction to be drawn up in the following form, or to the like effect; that is to say,

County, } “ BE it remembered, That on the
 &c. of } day of in the
 year of the reign of his Majesty
A. B. is convicted be-
 fore of his Majesty's
 Justices of the Peace for the said coun-
 ty, or riding, division, city, town, li-
 berty, or precinct (as the case shall be)
 by virtue of an act of Parliament made
 in the 24th year of the reign of his Ma-
 jesty King George the Third, intituled,
 [Here set forth the title of the act, and
 specify the offence, and the time and
 place when and where the same was
 committed.]

“ Given under our hands and seals,
 the day and year aforesaid.”

F I N I S.

And be it further enacted, That all Justices
of the Peace before whom any person shall be
indicted of any offence against the laws and
any such the conviction to be taken under the
following form, or to the like effect, to wit:

Comes } " B. is remembered, That on the
day of
year of the reign of his Majesty
of B. is remembered, and
of his Majesty's
Justices of the Peace for the [County of
or riding division, city, town, &c.]
being or present (as the case shall be)
by virtue of an act of Parliament made
in the sixth year of the reign of his Ma-
jesty King George the Third, intituled
"An Act for the better regulation of the
peace, when and where the same was
committed."

" Given under our hands and seals
the day and year aforesaid."

T. I. N. I. O.

